

Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

December 31, 2021

National Weather Service Spokane

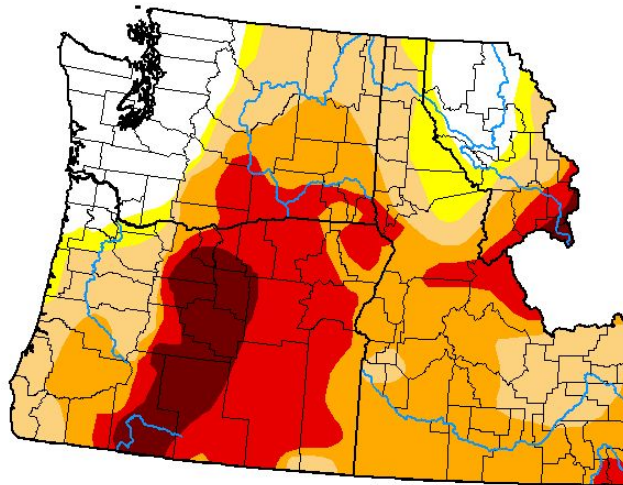
Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW



U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

Drought conditions continue to show improvements in the last month across the Inland Northwest, especially extreme eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.

- Extreme (D3) drought continues to shrink in southeast WA
- Severe (D2) decreased in the ID Panhandle



December 28, 2021

(Released Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.84	85.16	79.30	56.73	26.68	6.94
Last Week 12-21-2021	10.93	89.07	82.97	66.13	33.01	6.98
3 Months Ago 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	38.14	61.86	40.77	27.90	10.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 12-29-2020	38.14	61.86	40.77	27.90	10.74	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



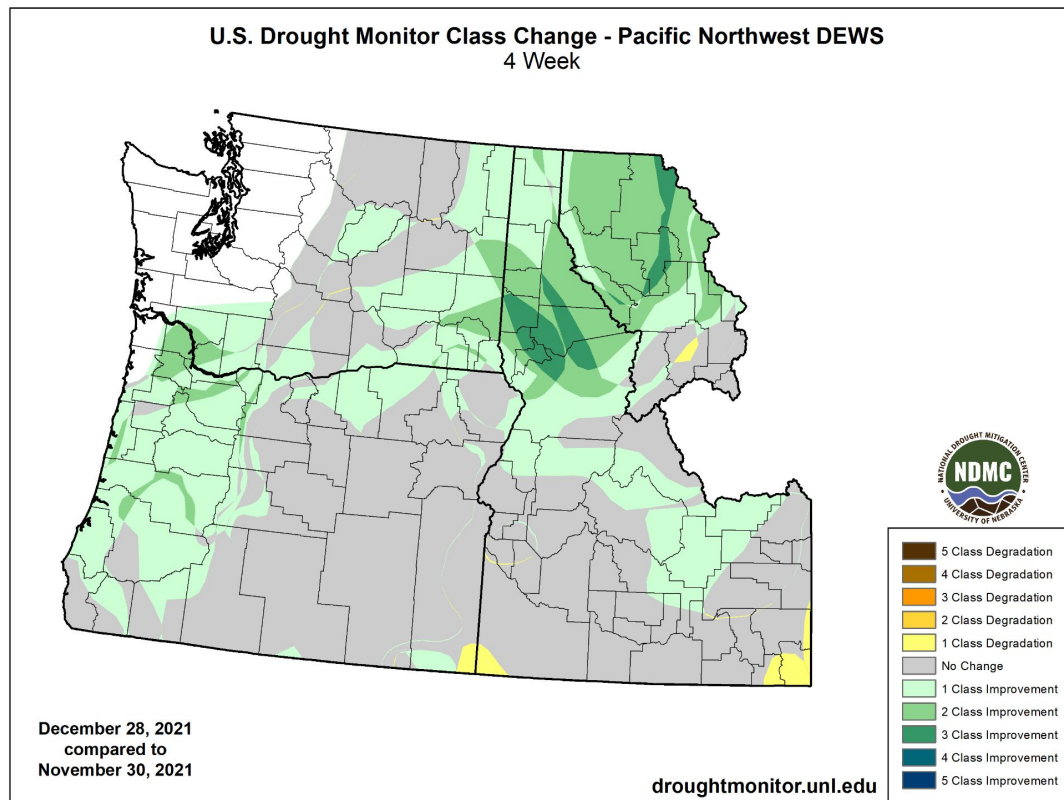
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

One Month Drought Change



Above normal precipitation this fall increased soil moisture and streamflows which helped decrease the drought severity across the Inland NW. The recent rounds of winter snow and colder temperatures aided in building the mountain snowpack.

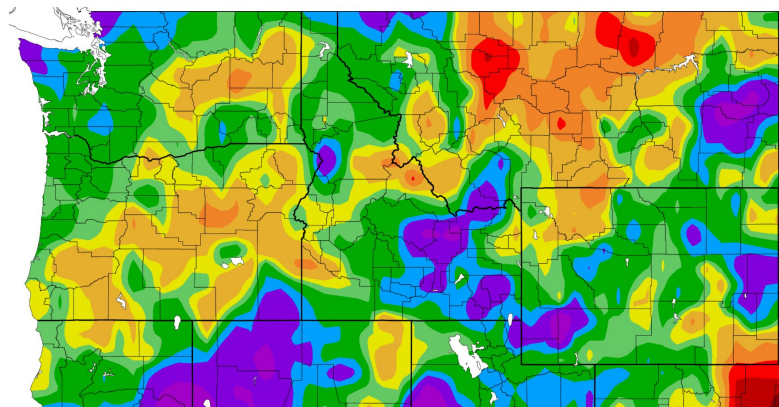
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>



Last 90 Days



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/2/2021 – 12/30/2021

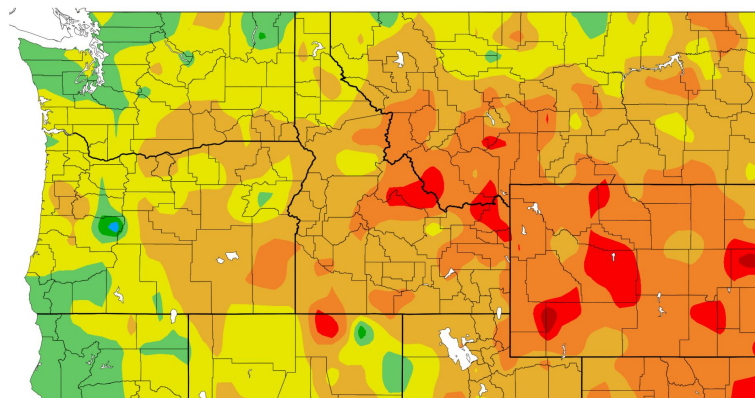


Generated 12/31/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Near to above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/2/2021 – 12/30/2021



Generated 12/31/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Temperatures have been running near to above normal region-wide, despite the cold snap in late December.

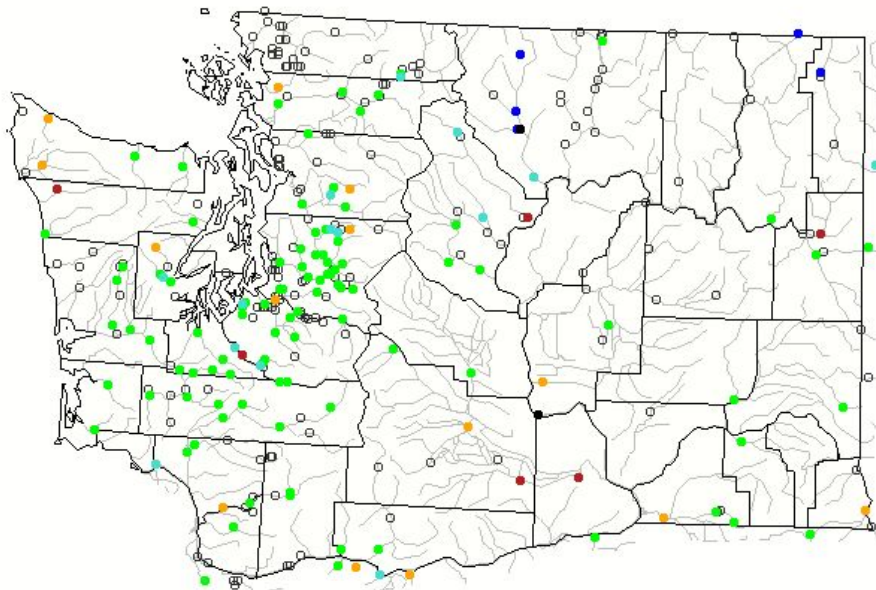
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

Drought Impacts - Streamflows



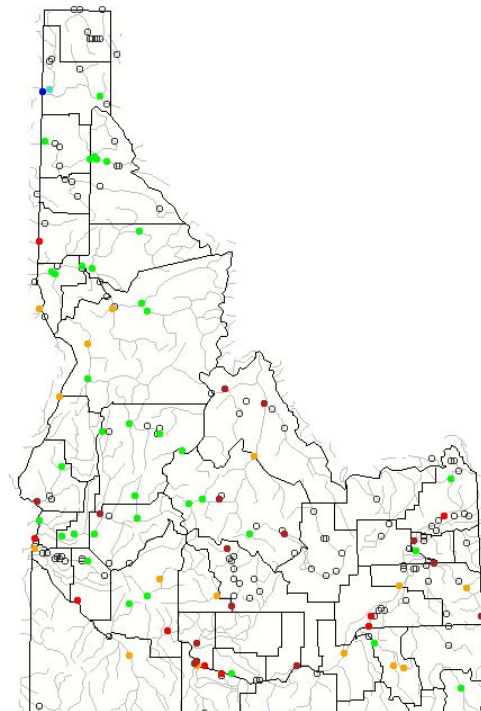
Friday, December 31, 2021 08:30ET

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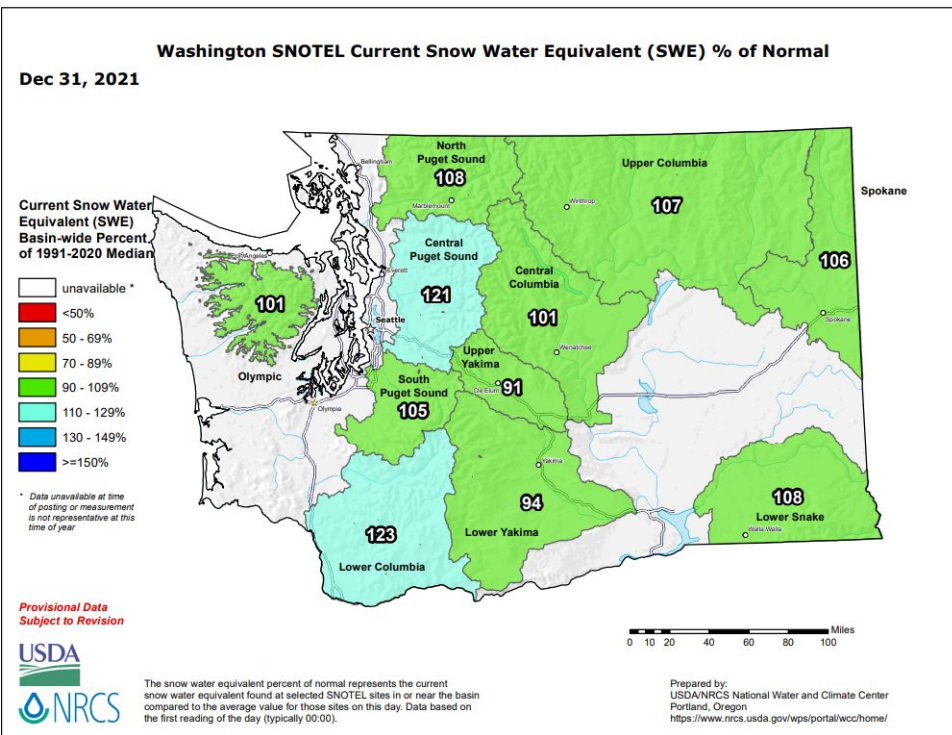


Stream flows have returned to near normal levels across the Inland NW after record low flows late this summer. Above normal flows remain over parts of north central Washington, while near to below normal flows stretch across the Columbia Basin, into the Palouse, Spokane, and lower Snake river basins.

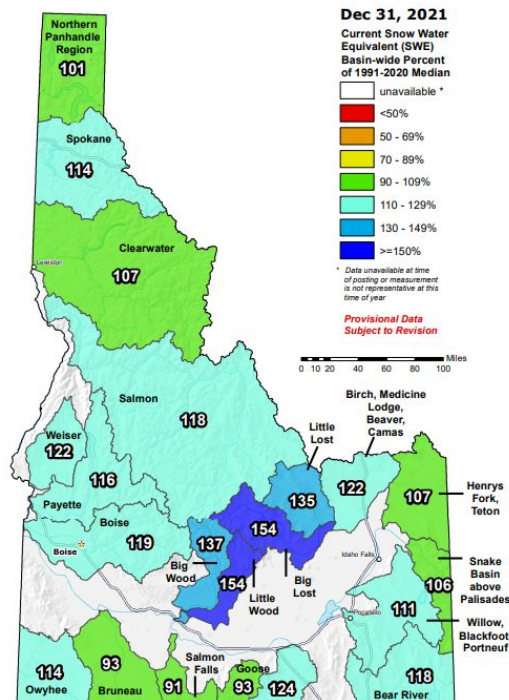
<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>



Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



Idaho SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



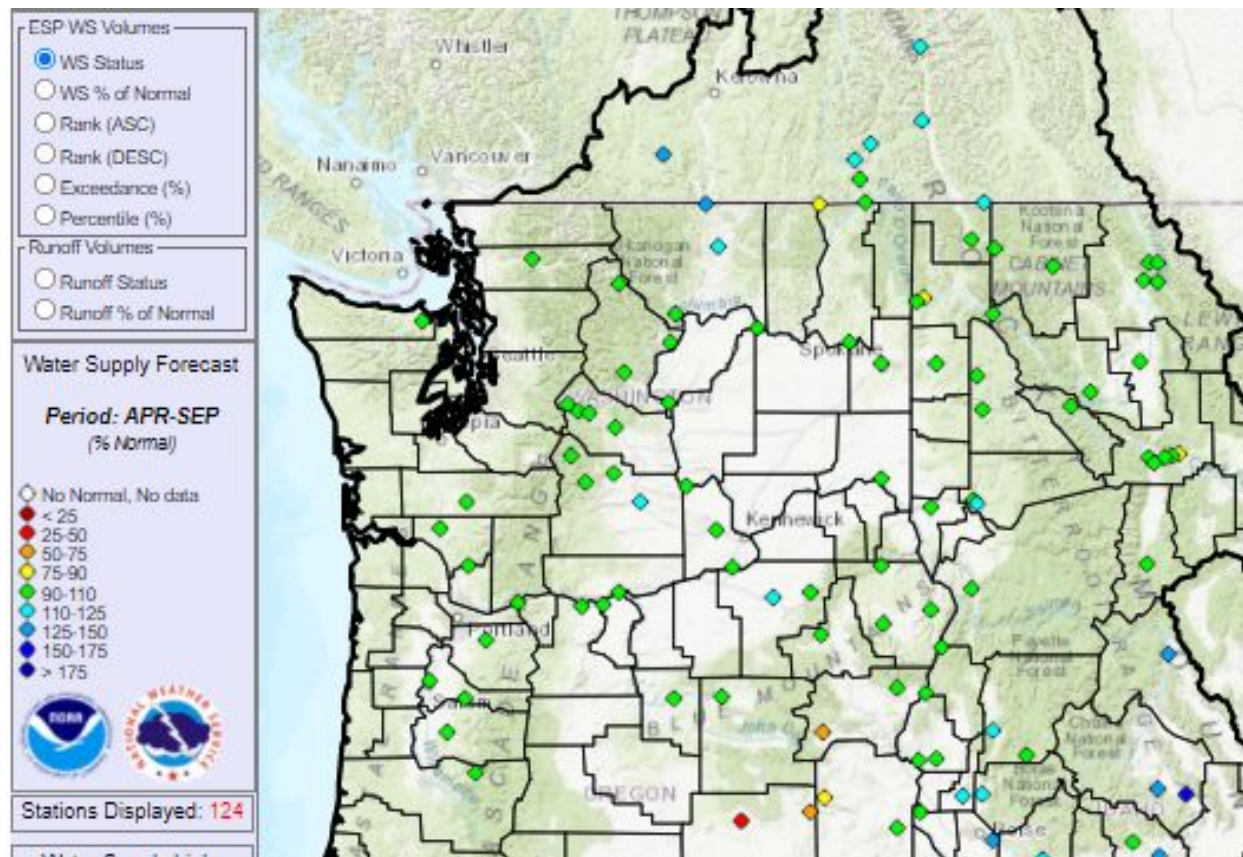
Mountain snowpack had an early start across the northern Cascades this fall. The colder temperatures in December helped the snowpack build elsewhere. . <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

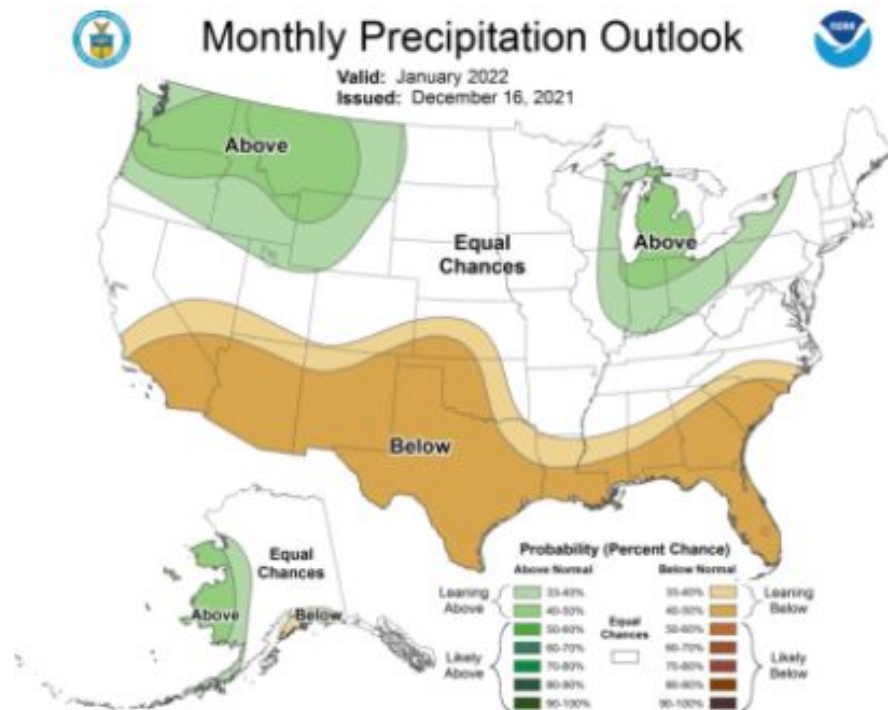
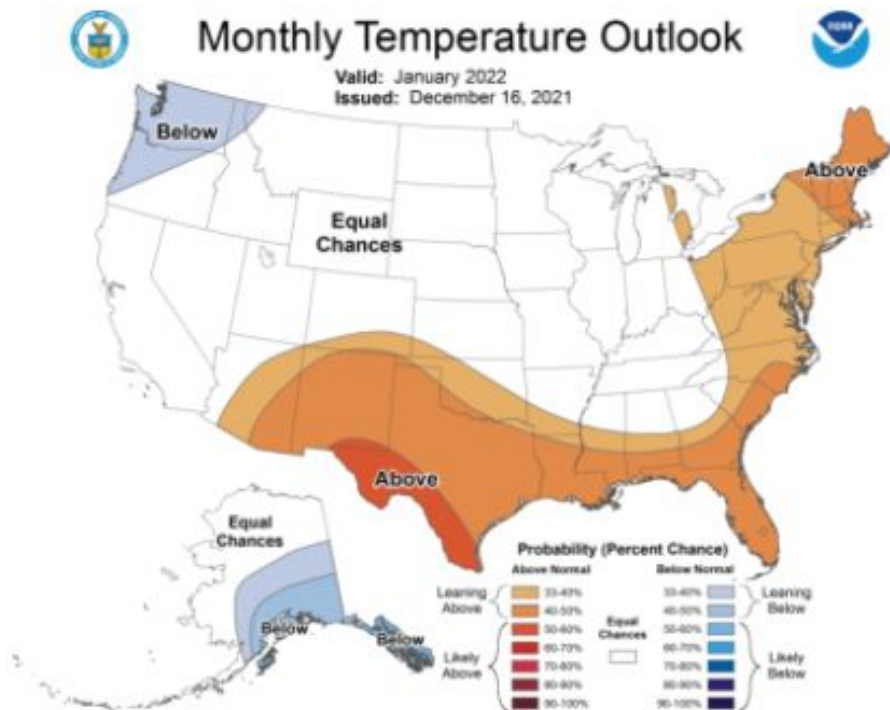


October 1st marked a new Water Year. The updated water supply forecast looks optimistic for the coming year with most areas around normal for 2022.

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>

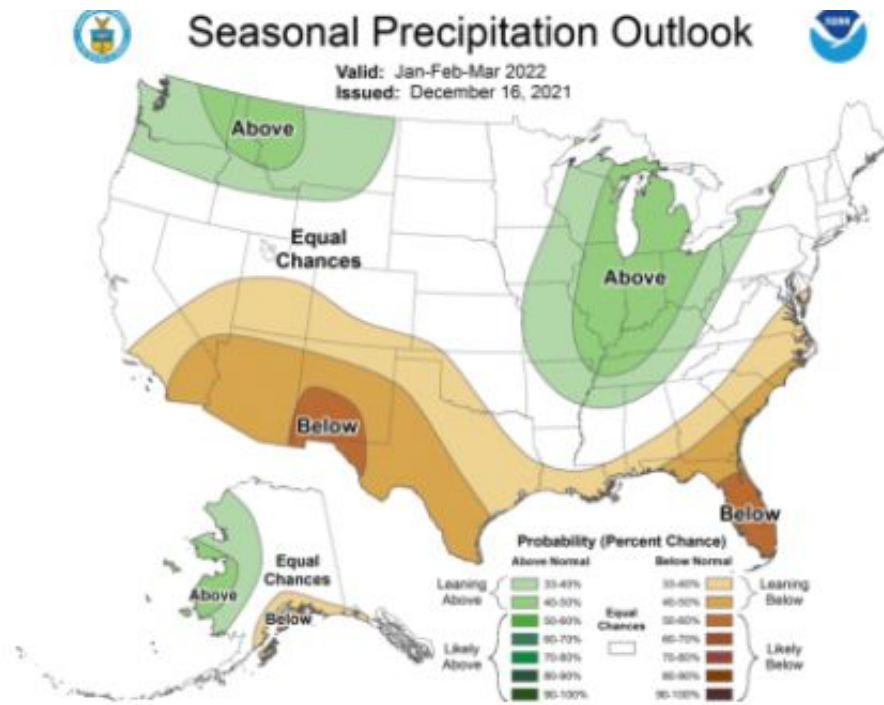
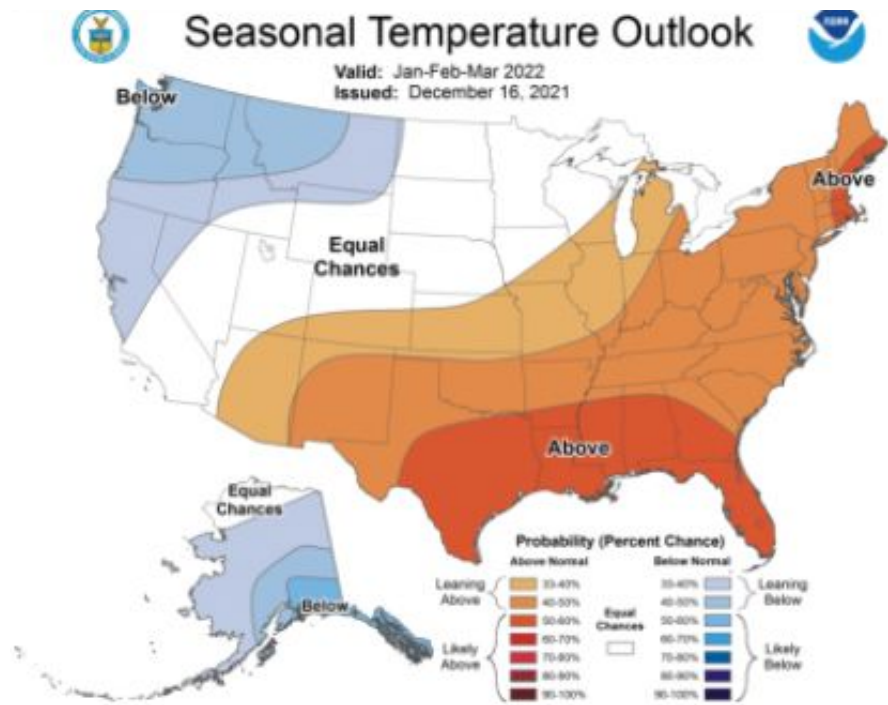


CPC One Month Outlook ~ January



The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for January favors below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Inland NW. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

CPC Three Month Outlook ~ December to February



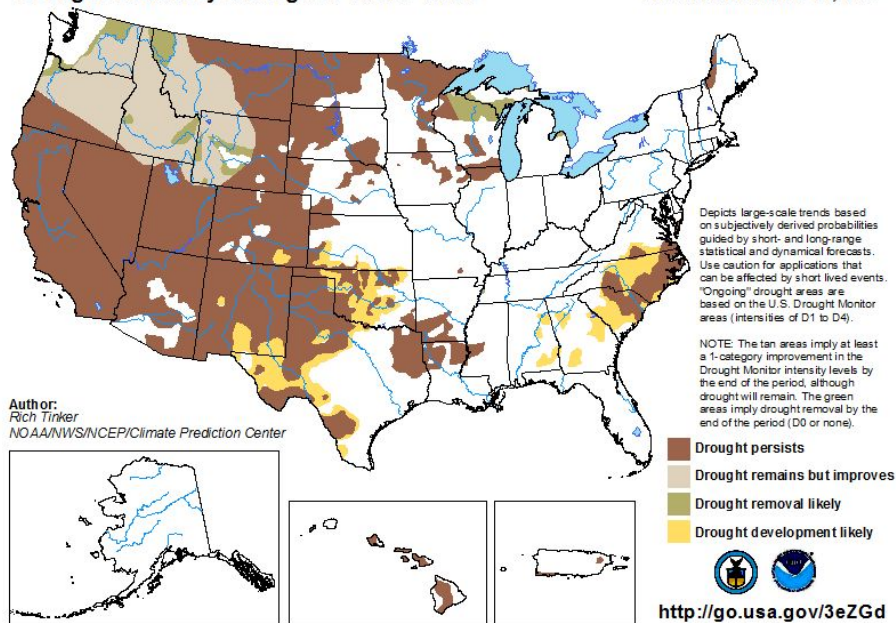
The three month outlook for January to March 2022 continues the trend of below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

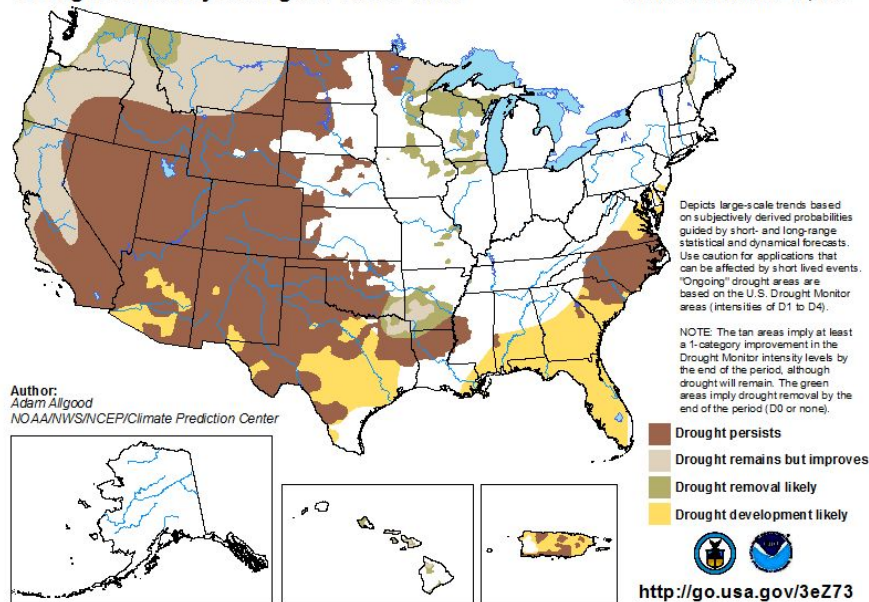
Valid for December 2021
Released November 30, 2021



Author:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 16, 2021 - March 31, 2022
Released December 16, 2021



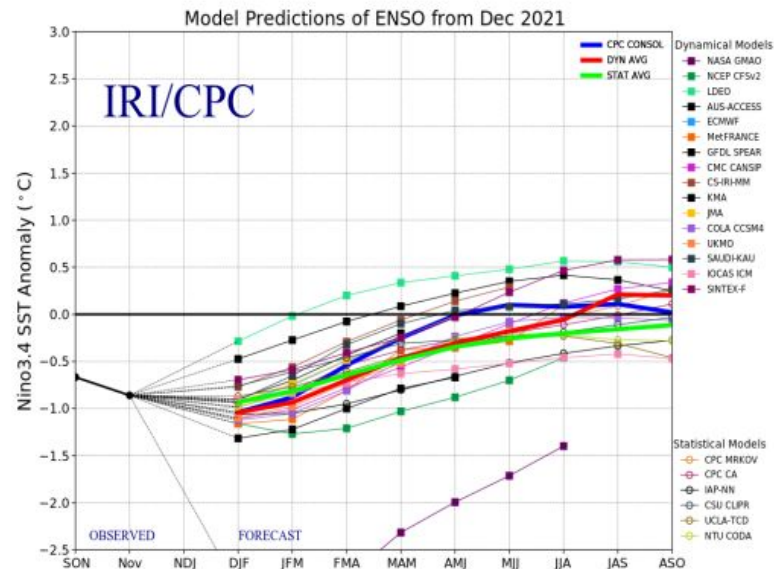
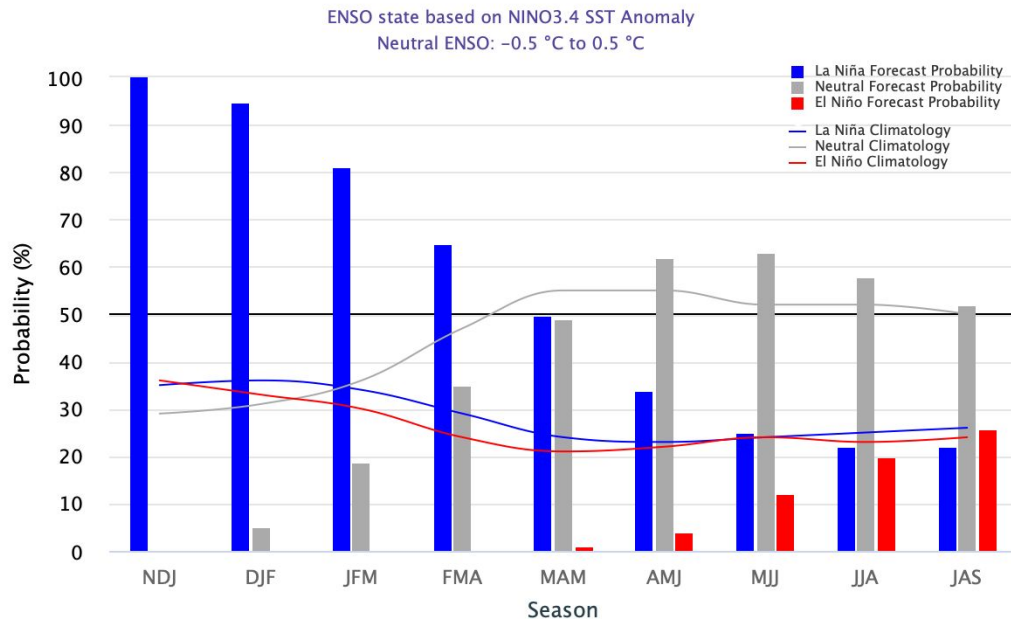
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks both suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements. There is a potential for some drought removal across parts of north central, northeast Washington and even the northern Idaho Panhandle in the coming months. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

La Nina Outlook




Early-December 2021 CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts




A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Drought Summary

- 
- Slow improvements continue across the Inland NW with shrinking of Extreme (D3) Drought in southeast Washington and Severe (D2) Drought in Idaho Panhandle.
 - The Seasonal Outlook favors below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for January and through March 2022. This favors improving drought conditions across the region in the months to come.
 - As for drought impacts, stream flows have returned normal. Mountain snowpack has increased in the last month due to the cold temperatures and rounds of snow.
 - Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane